



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/723,116

11/26/2003

Jesse D. Wolfe

IL-11162

1306

7590

11/01/2005

Michael C. Staggs
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
P. O. Box 808, L-703
Livermore, CA 94551

EXAMINER

ASSAF, FAYEZ G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,116	Applicant(s) WOLFE ET AL.	
	Examiner Fayez G. Assaf	Art Unit 2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2005.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-29 is/are rejected.
 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boswell et al. (US 2002/00036335).

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Boswell discloses an optical element, comprising: a sinusoidal profile substrate (30 of Fig. 2), an adhesion layer, having a predetermined thickness deposited on said profile (20 of Fig. 2), a layer comprising silver, having a predetermined thickness deposited on said adhesion layer (18 of Fig. 2); and a passivation layer, having a predetermined thickness deposited on said silver layer (16 of Fig. 2).

It is noted that the method of deposition is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, the method has not been given patentable weight.

Art Unit: 2872

Regarding claim 3, Boswell discloses the silver layer comprising a thickness in the range from about 1000 to about 10,000 Angstroms (paragraph [0021]).

Regarding claim 4, Boswell discloses the adhesion layer comprising a thickness in the range from about 3 to about 300 angstroms (paragraph [0022]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-7 and 9-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boswell.

Boswell discloses the claimed invention except for the following:

The passivation layer comprising a thickness in the range from about 3 to about 10 angstroms.

The adhesion layer comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of: nickel, nickel nitride,

Art Unit: 2872

chromium, chromium nitride, nickel-chromium alloys, silicon-nitride, and nickel-chromium nitride.

The passivation layer comprising at least material selected from the group consisting of: nickel, nickel nitride, chromium, chromium nitride, nickel-chromium alloys, silicon-nitride, and nickel-chromium nitride.

The durability layer comprising at least one nitride selected from the group consisting of: silicon nitride, aluminum nitride, and silicon aluminum nitride.

The durability layer further comprising an oxinitride layer deposited on said nitride layer and further metal oxides, a plurality of metal oxides.

However, the selection of known materials based on their suitability for the intended use or the determination of the optimum or workable ranges does not serve as basis for patentability.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select such materials for the passivation or the durability layer, since it has been held to be within the ordinary skill of worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *Sinclair & Carroll Co. v. Interchemical Corp.*, 325 U.S. 327, 65 USPQ 297 (1945).

Art Unit: 2872

One would have been motivated to select such materials because of their desired optical response (transmittance, energy absorption ...etc) in the predetermined range of wavelengths.

Furthermore, It has been held that the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation. In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977) See also In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

One would have been motivated to provide such values so as to maximize diffraction efficiency.

Regarding claim 14, Boswell discloses at least one durability layer on the passivation layer (14 of Fig. 2).

Regarding claims 23-29, it would have been obvious, at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to design such method steps to form the multi-layer film.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest

Art Unit: 2872

the diffraction efficiency being greater than about 90% for the predetermined range as set forth in the claimed combination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 08/09/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In essence, Applicant argues that Boswell does not disclose **a non-planar profile substrate**, because element 30 does not operate as a substrate. The examiner notes that the structure of the claimed optical element cannot be differentiated from the structure of the cited prior art. The element 30 can be considered a "substrate" onto which other layers are laminated.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 2872

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fayez G. Assaf whose telephone number is (571) 272-2307. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 M-F.

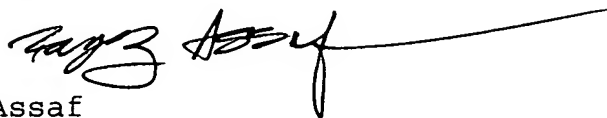
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/723,116

Page 8

Art Unit: 2872

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fayez G. Assaf', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fayez G. Assaf

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2872

10/31/2005